
FEBRUARY 14, 1806.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House
on Wednesday next.

A Bill,

For imposing a tax of ten dollars on all slaves hereafter imported into
the United States.



1 *Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That a duty
3 of ten dollars be imposed, levied and collected, on the importation
4 of every person, who shall hereafter be imported from any foreign
5 country or place, into the United States as a slave, or for the pur-
6 pose of being holden to service or labour, during life ; which duty
7 shall be paid at the time of making report as hereinafter mentioned,
8 or at the option of the importer, or importers, secured to be paid
9 within three months thereafter. *Provided always,* that the said
10 duty shall not be imposed on the importation of any slave, who, at
11 any time before such importation, shall have been within the United
12 States during the space of six months.

1 *Sec. 2. Be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the mas-
2 ter, or commander of any vessel, on board of which there shall be
3 any such person or slave, as aforesaid, to have on board, and ex-

4 hibit, a manifest of the same, and to make report thereof, and to
 5 pay, or secure the duty aforesaid, under the like regulations, re-
 6 strictions, penalties, and provisions, as are by law established
 7 with respect to the collection of duties on goods, wares, and mer-
 8 chandise, imported into the United States; and such manifest shall
 9 contain a just and particular account of all such persons, or slaves
 10 so on board, stating their sex, and whether minors or adults, and
 11 the number of each description.

1 Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That if any such person or slave
 2 shall be landed within the United States, from any vessel, contrary
 3 to the true intent and meaning of this act, before the duty afore-
 4 said shall be paid, or secured as aforesaid, each, and every slave
 5 so landed, shall be intitled to his or her freedom, and the remainder
 6 of the slaves on board such vessel, from which the same are landed
 7 as aforesaid, shall be forfeited to the United States.

1 Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That in case of the forfeiture of
 2 any slave, or slaves, to the United States, under, and by virtue of
 3 this act, the slaves so forfeited, shall, under the direction of the
 4 secretary of the treasury, be removed to any state, the laws of
 5 which permit their admission, and there be bound, as indented ser-
 6 vants, for such reasonable price as the said secretary shall affix,
 7 and for a term of time not exceeding fifteen years, nor less than
 8 seven, at the discretion of the said secretary: and the indentures
 9 by which they are so bound, as aforesaid, shall lay the person or
 10 persons contracting to take such slave or slaves into their service,
 11 under an obligation to give them such instruction, and to provide

12 them such comfortable support and maintenance, during the con-
13 tinuance of said term, as the said secretary shall prescribe, and
14 also at the expiration of said term, at which time they are hereby
15 declared free, to give them such suitable apparel as the said secre-
16 tary may appoint, and also a sum of money equal to three dollars
17 for every year's service, to which they shall have been bound as
18 aforesaid.

1 Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act contained,
2 shall be construed to give a sanction to the importation of slaves
3 into the United States, or to counteract the law of any state, pro-
4 hibiting their importation; it being the true intent and design of
5 this act to discourage, as far the constitution permits, the further
6 introduction of slaves into the United States.